



U. S. T R A D E A N D D E V E L O P M E N T A G E N C Y

USTDA Activities in India

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The agency funds various forms of technical assistance, feasibility studies, training, orientation visits and business workshops that support the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment.

Since 1981, USTDA has provided more than \$23,000,000 in activity funding for public and private sector project sponsors in India. USTDA has been active in a wide array of sectors, including transportation, energy, natural resources, environment, and information and communications technology. Current priority sectors include energy and power, water, environment, transportation, and agricultural biotechnology.

USTDA's activities with public sector entities in India are governed by a Cooperation Framework Agreement, which was signed with India's Ministry of Finance in November 2005. The Framework Agreement reflects the U.S. and Indian governments' strong joint support for identifying and pursuing mutually beneficial and commercially oriented economic development opportunities. The Framework Agreement allows further coordination of USTDA activities with the Indian public sector, providing a mechanism for the Ministry of Finance to review and approve new activities designed to strengthen bilateral economic ties.

Recent USTDA activities in India include:

Aviation

The *India Aviation Cooperation Program (ACP)*, a public-private partnership between USTDA, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and U.S. aviation companies, is designed to provide a forum for unified communication between the Government of India and U.S. public and private sector entities. The ACP is designed to work directly with the Indian Government to identify and support India's civil aviation sector modernization priorities.

The ACP's specific objectives are to: (i) promote increased safety, operational efficiency and system capacity in the Indian aviation sector; (ii) facilitate and coordinate aviation industry training and technical ties between the U.S. and India; and (iii) strengthen overall U.S.-India aviation cooperation. USTDA will fund training and technical assistance programs and the FAA and U.S. aviation companies will provide in-kind support.

USTDA and the FAA are jointly sponsoring the *U.S.-India Aviation Partnership Summit*, a two-and-one-half-day conference in New Delhi from April 23 -25, 2007. This summit will provide a forum both for high-level U.S.-India policy dialogue and for the presentation of near-term

infrastructure development projects, with the objective of enhancing the long-term strategic and commercial relationship between the Indian and U.S. aviation industries. The summit will target roughly 250 attendees, including senior U.S. and Indian government officials, high-level Indian aviation officials and industry leaders, and representatives from the U.S. aviation industry. The summit is designed to support ACP objectives by fostering high-level dialogue on key issues related to air traffic management and control, aviation security, and airspace utilization throughout India.

Transportation and Trade Facilitation Conference

USTDA sponsored a regional Transportation Solutions for South Asia Trade Conference for South Asian countries, which took place March 7-9, 2006 in Mumbai, a center of transportation and shipping in South Asia. The conference provided a showcase for major infrastructure projects from the region to support increased trade and economic integration among South Asian nations through improvements in transportation infrastructure and technology. Participants included senior government officials and industry leaders from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the United States. The conference agenda addressed a number of topics, including best practices for intermodal transportation, success stories in financing transportation projects, and regional initiatives in trade facilitation.

Energy and Power

USTDA has provided a Technical Assistance Grant to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), under the Indian Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The \$700,000 grant will partially fund technical assistance for the National Gas Grid project in India. The project is part of a major energy infrastructure program that India is undertaking to meet its increasing energy demands. Expanded access to, and utilization of, natural gas is expected to facilitate economic growth and maintain sufficient energy supplies to avoid potential shortages as India's energy demand grows. The technical assistance will address: (1) the physical interconnections of the pipelines and related capacity issues; (2) technology to manage, monitor and control the gas grid as an integrated operating system with a high degree of system reliability; (3) requirements and options for natural gas storage; (4) pipeline integrity and pipeline safety operations and technology; (5) gas transportation tariffs and practices, along with related technologies; and (6) pipeline systems security from a design and operations perspective.

Promoting the development of India's energy resources to help meet the nation's growing energy needs was the goal of a USTDA grant to Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), a private Indian company and a leader in the effort to develop India's coal bed methane (CBM) resources. The \$506,000 grant will partially fund technical assistance to RIL to develop the Sohagpur CBM project, which is slated to be the first commercial CBM project in India. The Government of India has prioritized the development of CBM as a means to meet the country's growing energy demands utilizing domestic supply sources. Specifically, the grant will assist RIL in assessing the market and gas infrastructure requirements for the commercial development of particular concession blocks.

Refineries

USTDA funded a successful Oil and Gas Refinery Modernization Orientation Visit for twelve representatives from India's major oil refineries to visit the United States in late January 2007. The Orientation Visit familiarized participants with U.S. expertise and equipment in downstream oil and gas manufacturing, and provided an opportunity to make contact with companies that are in a position to provide the certain goods, services, and technologies for India's upcoming refinery modernization projects.

Agriculture Knowledge Initiative

USTDA is supporting activities under the U.S.-India Agriculture Knowledge Initiative, including:

- **Agricultural Biotechnology Training Program:** This \$500,000 program is designed to provide additional support for biosafety capacity building and policy development, which will support India's development of its regulatory system for agricultural biotechnology. This will in turn allow for commercialization of products in the pipeline to increase agricultural productivity and economic growth, as well as facilitate trade between the United States and India. Specifically, the program will provide both short and long-term training to Indian regulators and scientists on specific agricultural biotechnology issues, such as food safety assessment and regulatory policies, and principles for genetically engineered agricultural products.
- **Cold Chain Program:** This \$600,000 program will support training and workshops designed to strengthen India's cold chain infrastructure. The objective of the program is to engage Indian importers and retailers that handle U.S. products in activities to facilitate improved handling of products throughout various stages of the cold chain. Specifically, the program comprises a series of workshops in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta on food handling for various stakeholders in the Indian cold chain. These seminars would be followed by a more in-depth and tailored visit to the United States for leaders in the Indian cold chain system.